

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000187

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ?: B65H 75/24, B62B 1/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 DWPI IPC B65H 75/-, B62B 1/- and KEYWORDS store, hold, retain, grip, grasp, secure, hose, pipe, cable, rope, sheet, board, panel, channel, slot, passage, slit, recess, prong, tine, exten+, variable, adjust, alter, vary

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| X, P | AU 2002301862 A1 (GRANT) 19 February 2004 Whole document | 1, 3 to 11, 17 |
| X | US 6135381 A (TESON) 24 October 2000 Column 2, lines 21 to 63 and Figures | 1, 3, 4, 17 to 20, 23, 24 |
| X | US 4779815 A (MOORE et al) 25 October 1988 Column 1, lines 52 to 61, Column 2, line 22 to Column 3, line 66 and Figures | 1 to 11 |
| X | DE 2816266 A1 ((RHEN BETEILIGUNGS- und FINANZIERUNGS AG) 25 October 1979 Figures 1 and 2 | 1, 3, 4, 17, 18 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
6 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 DEC 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

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PCT/NZ2004/000187**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 35

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

Although the claim is directed to a method of manufacture, the description is wholly silent on the method of manufacture of the storage device.

3. Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See supplemental sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: III Lack of Unity of Invention

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1 to 34 are directed to a storage device including a body, the body including at least one substantially elongate backbone and at least one substantially elongate tine interconnected thereto but separated there from by a defined distance to form a channel adapted to receive the article positioned therein, and further including supporting means attachable to the body. It is considered that the elongate tine interconnected to the backbone but separated there from by a defined distance to form a channel adapted to receive the article positioned therein comprises a first "special technical feature"
2. Claim 36 is directed to a method of varying the article storage capacity of a storage device, the storage device including a body, the body including a substantially elongate backbone and multiple substantially elongate tines interconnected to the backbone, but each tine separated from the backbone by a defined distance to each other to form a channel adapted to receive the article positioned therein, each tine also being separated from each other by a defined distance and further including supporting means attachable to the body. It is considered that the elongate tine also being separated from each other by a defined distance comprises a second "special technical feature".

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is a storage device including a body, the body including at least one substantially elongate backbone and at least one substantially elongate tine interconnected thereto but separated there from by a defined distance to form a channel adapted to receive the article positioned therein, and further including supporting means attachable to the body. However this concept is not novel in the light of US 6135381 A (Teson), US 4779815 A (Moore et al) and DE 2816266 (Rhen. Beteiligungs- und Finanzierungs AG). Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000187

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report | | | Patent Family Member |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| AU | 2002301862 | NIL | |
| US | 6135381 | NIL | |
| US | 4779815 | US 4688739 | |
| DE | 2816266 | NIL | |

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX